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PRESS RELEASE
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Attribute to:
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RE: NEWS ARTICLE--"SPRINGS GROUP PROPOSES BOYCOTT"
Rocky Mountain News-4/1/93

Ground Zero views with interest, certainly not surprise, the revelation by Kevin Tebedo of Colorado for Family Values that boycotts of those companies who have non-discrimination policies toward Homosexuals or who might be described a gay friendly are now a part of the CFV agenda. During the campaign to pass Amendment Two, leadership of CFV stated time and time again that they had no concern or interest in "private" businesses and their policies They stated that they were only concerned with "public" policy. As little as two weeks ago, the Director of Public Information for CFV denied that they were encouraging this action even though printed training manuals being used by them at the time prescribed this action. Ground Zero has also declined to suggest boycotts of media, as CFV has done, viewing this type of action as encouraging censorship.

Colorado for Family Values' true agenda is, as Mr. Tebedo said, to keep Homosexuals in the closet. Now the reason for this is not that for homosexuals to come out is a threat to the moral condition of the country or its children. It is rather because militant fundamentalists know that once the general population becomes aware that the overwhelming majority of homosexuals are just the people next door, inoffensive and contributing members of their community, not disease ridden, slobbering child molesters as CFV campaign literature attempts to convey, their cause is lost. An argument based on myth and lies may prevail for awhile but will ultimately collapse.

Mr. Tebedo states that Gay organizations have been targeting Anti-Gay business for boycott. While I cannot imagine a Gay person would buy a Chrysler from Will Perkins or office supplies from Ed Bircham, there has never been in Colorado Springs a list prepared or distributed calling for boycott of businesses that supported Amendment two nor have any names been mentioned or suggested to be boycotted. There has been some talk in regard preparing a "gay" friendly business list but this has not gone beyond the suggestion stage.

Finally, Ground Zero is not principally a boycott organization. We find our mandate in education and community outreach not only in regard Amendment Two, which we consider the tip of the iceberg, but also in the general attack on diversity tolerance and human rights being waged by the Religious Right. Ground Zero has stood in general support of the boycott as one method in which groups and organizations may send a message of opposition in regard Amendment Two and the political agenda of the Religious Right. Up until now, Ground Zero has never proactively contacted anyone to boycott Colorado or Colorado Springs although, when asked, we indicate that this is a strong message, perhaps the strongest, and one which is appropriate to send. We do not vilify or attack those who do not choose this direction. Instead, we offer to help them find other ways to accomplish this goal.